

Durham County Women's Commission
MINUTES
January 22, 2003

Present: Kim Thornton, Gale Meyer, Annette Anderson-Bailey, Veronica Hicks, Kim O'Neill, Yolanda Mangum-Gordon, Dannie McClees, Nira Bonner

Minutes: Approved as sent.

New Members: Dannie McClees and Nira Bonner welcomed !

Treasurer's Report: Balance of \$2445.90

Guest: Grace Marsh of Women in Action introduced members to the agency and its work. WIA (wia@earthlink.net) was founded in 1968 to address issues related to school integration and poverty. It now serves as a clearinghouse and handles approximately 3500 calls a year. It deals with issues ranging from domestic violence and its causes and legal advice to economic issues related to homelessness and various forms of emergency assistance. Mentoring is a new initiative linking assistance to long term help and support for women. It is funded by memberships, United Way and churches and last year initiated the Good Neighbor Fund designed to meet the greater community needs. Grace sees a great need for advocacy and building partnerships. The group agreed that WIA's mission was very compatible with that of the Women's Commission and that there may be partnership opportunities in the future.

Promotion of assessment/survey of Durham Women: The study was well received by the County Commissioners. A press release was reviewed and media prospects discussed.

Future Plans: Highlighting some of the issues raised in conversation with Women in Action, consensus developed around the idea of a forum that would bring various groups together to both share information and services and give a voice to women's issues. This will be the primary subject of the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, Feb 26 6 pm Shoney's